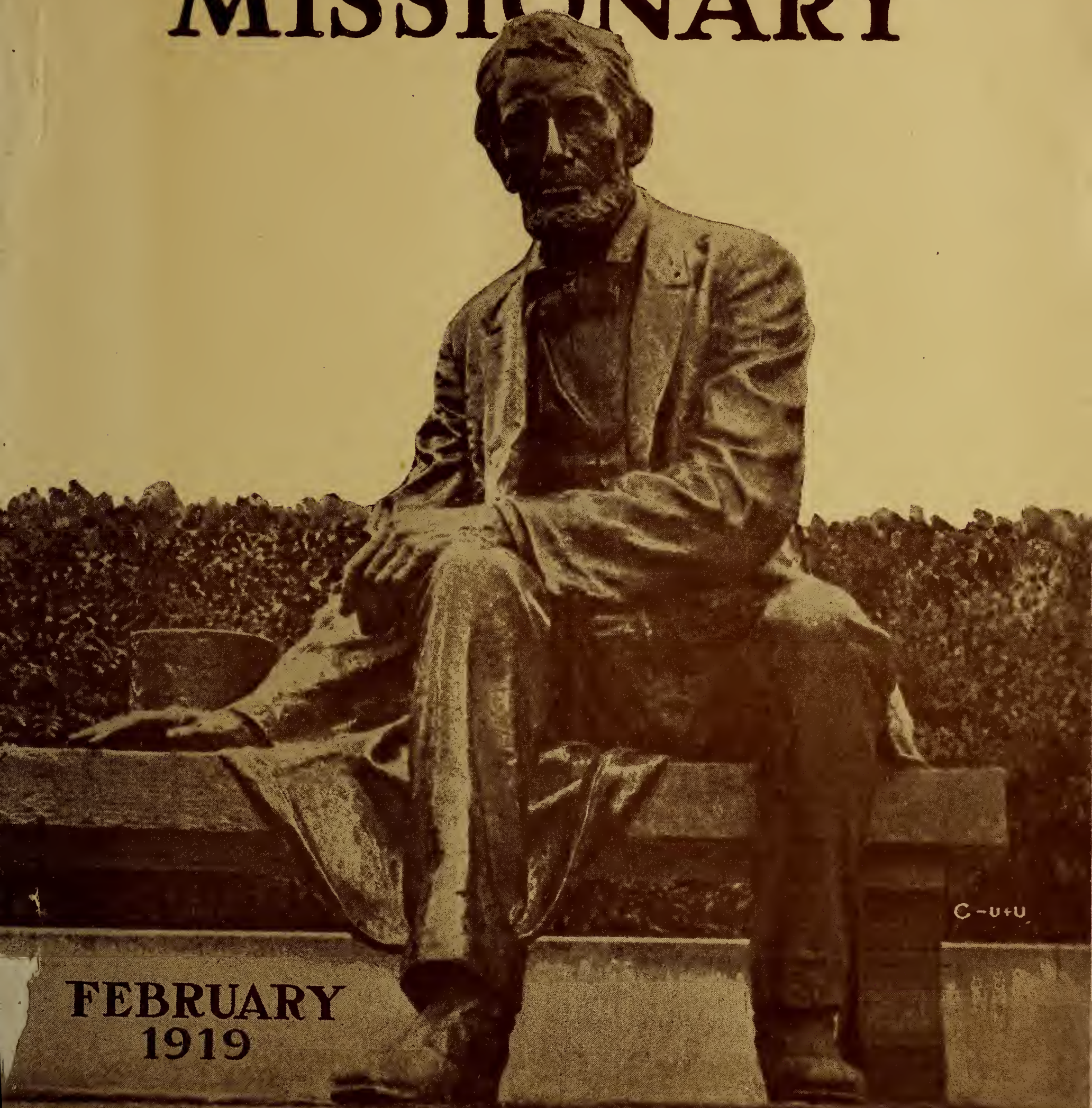


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THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION



LINCOLN AND HIS CABINET

LINCOLN

*Lines written to a Statue of the Martyr-President
of the United States of America*

Lincoln, thou standest there with arms afold
Upon thy breast. Thy head in thought is bent.
Now hearest thou the message to thee sent
That calls thee to a task of pain untold,
Of meaning vast on history's page enrolled.
The crowding races of a continent
Shall read with joy and know with deep content
That sons who are to be shall bear thy mold.
For thou art living: thou shalt ever live
To shape the manhood of thy native land.
Thou gavest all; and thou shalt ever give
Thy love, thy patience and thy self-command
To spirits fine who, sifted in thy sieve,
Thy story read and reading understand.

---Franklin A. Gaylord.



EDITORIALS

THE GREATNESS OF LINCOLN

(This)
THE lesson of the life of Abraham Lincoln cannot be too familiar. This wonderful public man of American history born one hundred and ten years ago Feb. 12th achieved a greatness never surpassed by any of the eminent men who have presided over our government save possibly one. He has divided with Washington only, the reverence, honor and memory of a grateful people. Not only so, but the intelligent judgment of the civilized world has likewise rendered him its high honor of distinction.

Only one whose recent death the whole country now mourns among those who have directed the Nation's destiny, whose brilliant genius, versatile intellectual powers, heroic greatness and patriotic devotion combined were simply phenomenal, may perhaps be accounted as supremely the greatest American in public life of all time. President, Statesman, Soldier, Historian, Explorer, Naturalist, Orator.

The greatness of Lincoln is particularly marked in the hindrances over which he overcame. Born in poverty, in a cabin built of logs, in an unsubdued wilderness of country he was left motherless at 10 years of age and so scanty were his privileges the entire number of his days that he was able to attend school hardly exceeded one year. This was his start in life. As the type of civilization advanced in that pioneer country he advanced with it, employing every opportunity to improve his mind. Little by little, step by step, he clambered up. At twenty-one years of age he had had a full course in the University of Hard Knocks, and was looked up to by his neighbors with respect for his qualities of mind and character. Now came his ambition and resolution which surmounted all obstacles, both proving and giving him strength all the way through thirty years of ascension, until in the most critical condition of the Nation in 1860 he was called to the highest responsibilities that the people of the country in its supreme peril could give. How well he interpreted their wisdom and their will the wide world knows and will never forget.

But just now we may mention certain elements of his greatness as this was revealed in the fearful conflict which began with his administration. This revelation came with the formation of his Cabinet. It is here that his

patriotic devotion was guided by his wisdom. In his appointments of counselors and administrators he did not limit them to those who were friendly to him or who had furthered his election. Stanton was no friend personally nor politically, but he was called to be the Secretary of War. Wells not of his party had been a political opponent, but he was chosen to be Secretary of the Navy. Still the third member of the Cabinet out of seven had been a political opponent. It took a man of rare greatness of character to do this thing; to retire personal and political preference for the sake of public welfare. Elected by a strict party vote after a heated political contest he was too great to be the President of a party. When he became President of the United States he became President of the whole people, and during his entire administration, the most momentous that had ever fallen to the lot of man—which set free ten million slaves and gave him imperishable renown—his theory of government, which he epitomized at Gettysburg as “the government of the people by the people for the people”—was his consistent policy and practice. That he recognized no party but the people only was a test and illustration of the greatness of his wisdom and character.

GOD'S COUNTRY

“**S**UCH is the title of the little Program prepared by the Association for Sunday School use upon Lincoln Day, February 9th. The first page bears a cut of the famous Borglum statue of Abraham Lincoln located at Newark, N. J., the same that appears upon the cover of this magazine. The statue depicts Lincoln the friend of the common people. In front of the Court House close to the crowded Market Street sidewalk the good President is seen sitting at one end of the bench and making a friendly place beside him as much as to say “Come, sit down with me, let us talk things over.”

Children are swift to feel and respond to that gracious invitation; for, as a matter of fact, the bench frequently swarms with little folks who sit upon the knees of the bronze Lincoln, nestle in his arms and climb to his shoulders. Beneath the cut our Program presents the immortal words of the First Inaugural beginning, “With malice toward none, with charity for all,” words that were never more timely than now.

The exercise treats of the building of the New Jerusalem upon American soil and emphasizes that part of this great task which is committed to our Association. A Five-Minute Hero Tale, entitled, “Thomas, His Obstacle Race,” has also been prepared for Sunday schools, which is to be used in February, and for the younger children another story of the Little Neighbor Series, entitled “School Time.” This material with collection envelopes will be supplied upon prompt application at the New York office or either of the District Offices.

As the unique opportunity afforded by Lincoln Day for instruction of boys and girls in the duties and privileges of Christian citizenship and social service are more widely recognized, the observance of that day is becoming every year a more general practice among our Sunday schools.

"So far as I legitimately can, I shall endeavor to pay regard to the wishes and feelings of the people of each locality; but I cannot consent to take the position that the door of hope—the door of opportunity shall be shut upon any man, no matter how worthy, purely upon the ground of race or color."

Theodore Roosevelt.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID IT

This letter from Abraham Lincoln, dated February 22nd, 1863, was written to Dr. Alexander Reed of the Christian Commission, who had asked him to preside at a meeting for the soldiers at the House of Representatives.

WHATEVER shall be sincerely, and in God's name, devised for the good of the soldier and seaman, in their hard spheres of duty, can scarcely fail to be blessed. And whatever shall tend to turn our thoughts from the unreasoning and uncharitable passions, prejudices and jealousies incident to a great national trouble, such as ours, and to fix them upon the vast and long enduring consequences, for weal or for woe, which are to result from the struggle, and especially to strengthen our reliance on the Supreme Being, for the final triumph of the right, can not but be well for us all.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT, speaking on "Lincoln," said: "Certain it is that we have never had a man in public life whose sense of duty was stronger, whose bearing toward those with whom he came in contact, whether his friends or political opponents, was characterized by a greater sense of fairness than Abraham Lincoln. We have never had a man in public life who took upon himself uncomplainingly the woes of the nation and suffered in his soul from the weight of them as he did. We have never had a man in our history who had such a mixture of far-sightedness, of understanding of the people, of common sense, of high sense of duty, of power of inexorable logic and of confidence in the goodness of God, in working out a righteous result as this great product of the soil of Kentucky and Illinois."

SEVENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

By Secretary Roundy

THE Seventy-second Annual Meeting of the American Missionary Association was held in the cathedral church of Congregationalism, the First Congregational Church of Montclair, New Jersey, on the afternoon and evening of January 8. At all the sessions, Mr. John R. Rogers, for many years a member of the Executive Committee, presided in the absence of President King. The afternoon session was held in the parlor of the parish house, well filled by those interested in the reports for the year. The evening session was in the finely appointed Gothic auditorium of the church. In front of the audience, was the new service flag presented to